



Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin

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National Weather Summary October 17 - 23, 2010

Highlights: A more active weather pattern evolved across the United States, gradually closing a window of opportunity for autumn fieldwork. Dry weather continued through week's end, however, in the Southeast, allowing harvest activities to proceed but causing further drought expansion and intensification. Farther north, Midwestern corn and soybean harvest activities neared completion in many areas until late-week showers slowed fieldwork. However, rain also aided recently planted winter wheat in drought-affected portions of the eastern Corn Belt. Meanwhile on the southern Plains, pastures and winter wheat benefited from rain that totaled an inch or more in much of Oklahoma and northern Texas. Elsewhere, a stormier weather pattern in the West limited fieldwork but signaled the onset of the 2010-11 wet season. Precipitation was generally welcomed in the Southwest, which faces the prospect of below-normal winter precipitation due to the evolution of La Niña.

Warmth prevailed across the South early in the week and again at week's end. On October 17, Hot Springs, Arkansas (86 degrees Fahrenheit), notched a daily-record high. Later, Greenwood, Mississippi (87 degrees Fahrenheit), collected a daily-record high for October 23. Elsewhere, scattered daily-record lows were mostly confined to the Northwest, where Meacham, Oregon (19 degrees Fahrenheit), posted a daily-record low for October 18. On October 22, enough cold air swept into the Northeast to produce a trace of snow in locations such as Rochester, New York, and Scranton, Pennsylvania, and as much as 1 to 3 inches at several other spots across the interior Northeast.

As stormier weather began to unfold, several long-running dry spells came to an end, while other areas remained dry. In Wisconsin, La Crosse's longest spell without measurable precipitation since April 10 – May 9, 1980, ended at 29 days (September 24 – October 22). La Crosse received 1.48 inches of rain on October 23-24. Meanwhile, Quincy, Illinois, experienced its driest October 1-23 period on record, with only 0.01 inch recorded. No rain fell in Jacksonville, Florida, during the first 23 days of the month, leaving that city with a chance to break its October record for dryness (0.08 inch in 1909). In contrast, Reno, Nevada, set an October record with 2.20 inches of precipitation (previously, 2.14 inches in 1945). In southern California, Barstow-Daggett's month-to-date total through October 23 climbed to 1.10 inches, just shy of the October 1983 standard of 1.15 inches. During the mid- to late-week period, precipitation expanded into the Nation's midsection. In western Texas, Lubbock netted 2.57 inches of rain on October 21-22. In the vicinity of Lubbock, hail up to 1.75 inches in diameter was reported on October 21 in Lubbock, Terry, and Yoakum Counties. Later, daily-record precipitation totals for October 23 included 2.51 inches in San Angelo, Texas, and 1.71 inches in Rockford, Illinois. Heavy precipitation also began to overspread the Northwest, where Eugene, Oregon, measured a daily-record total (1.23 inches) for October 23.

Near- to above-normal temperatures prevailed in Alaska, along with widespread, but generally light, precipitation. On October 21, Bethel posted a daily record-tying high of 49 degrees Fahrenheit. Meanwhile, weekly rainfall reached 2.99 inches on Annette Island, boosting its October 1-23 total to 17.55 inches (172 percent of normal). Farther south, warm weather accompanied scattered showers in Hawaii. On October 23, both Honolulu, Oahu (89 degrees Fahrenheit), and Lihue, Kauai (86 degrees Fahrenheit), tallied daily record-tying highs. Meanwhile on the Big Island, Hilo's year-to-date rainfall stood at 42.09 inches (43 percent of normal), despite a weekly total of 2.39 inches. On Oahu, 3.80 inches of rain soaked the Manoa Lyon Arboretum in a 24-hour period on October 18-19.

*National Weather Summary provided by USDA's World Agricultural Outlook Board.
For more information, call (202) 720-2397.*

Agricultural Summary

October 18 – 24, 2010

Highlights: Warm temperatures dominated much of the Nation during the week, with averages reaching as many as 8 degrees above normal throughout portions of the Delta and central and southern Great Plains. Warm, dry weather across the Midwest promoted the continued rapid harvest of corn and soybeans. Elsewhere, warm temperatures in the Northwest aided the establishment of recently seeded small grain crops. Late-week thunderstorms delivered some much needed rainfall to areas in the Great Plains, while many producers in the Southeast were waiting for additional moisture before seeding their winter wheat and cover crops.

Corn: Nationally, producers had harvested 83 percent of this year's corn crop by week's end, 63 percentage points ahead of last year and 34 percentage points, or 16 days ahead of the 5-year average. Harvest was most rapid in Minnesota and the Dakotas, where producers utilized 6 days suitable for fieldwork to combine 30 percent or more of their crop during the week. In Iowa, the largest corn-producing State, harvest advanced to 86 percent complete by October 24, the quickest pace since 2000.

Soybeans: By week's end, soybean harvest had advanced to 91 percent complete, 49 percentage points ahead of last year and 19 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Harvest activities neared completion throughout the Midwest as mild, mostly dry weather continued to dominate the region. Twelve of the 18 major estimating States were 44 points or more ahead of last year and 16 points or more ahead of normal.

Winter Wheat: Producers seeded 8 percent of the 2011 winter wheat crop during the week, leaving progress, at 88 percent complete, 11 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Some producers in the Southeast were waiting for needed rainfall before continuing with crop seeding. Double-digit crop emergence was evident across much of the major producing areas during the week. By October 24, emergence had advanced to 64 percent complete, 5 percentage points ahead of last year but on par with the 5-year average. Thunderstorms delivered much needed rainfall to winter wheat fields on portions of the southern Plains, boosting topsoil moisture and aiding crop establishment. Overall, 47 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, 15 percentage points below the same time last year.

Cotton: With warm, sunny weather prevailing throughout much of the major cotton-producing areas of the country during the week, harvest advanced at the quickest pace since 2001. By October 24, fifty-three percent of the cotton crop was harvested, 34 percentage points ahead of last year and 17 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. In Texas, above average rainfall hampered harvest progress in portions of the High Plains, while isolated fields in the Northern Low Plains were reported as a total loss due to hail damage. Overall, 53 percent of the cotton crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from ratings last week but 9 percentage points better than the same time last year.

Sorghum: Nationwide, 97 percent of the sorghum crop was at or beyond the mature stage by week's end, 18 percentage points ahead of last year and 11 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Harvest advanced 11 points during the week to 73 percent complete by October 24, thirty-six percentage points ahead of last year and 19 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. In Kansas, sunny skies and dry conditions continued to promote the quickest harvest pace since 2001.

Rice: By October 24, rice producers had harvested 91 percent of this year's crop, 7 percentage points ahead of last year but 2 percentage points behind the 5-year average. In California, harvest in the Sacramento Valley continued at a rapid pace early during the week, but was halted by weekend rains. Additionally, strong winds flattened some fields.

Other Crops: By week's end, 67 percent of the peanut crop had been dug, 23 percentage points ahead of last year and 10 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. In Georgia, dry, hard-packed soils in portions of the State prevented producers from digging their crop.

Nationally, 47 percent of the sunflower crop was harvested by week's end, 36 percentage points ahead of last year and 13 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Harvest in the four major estimating States was 25 points or more ahead of last year and 10 points or more ahead of normal.

By October 24, sugarbeet producers had harvested 86 percent of this year's crop, 20 percentage points ahead of last year and 11 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average, and the quickest harvest pace since estimates began in 2000. Harvest in Minnesota and North Dakota was complete or nearly complete well ahead of both last year and the average.

Corn Harvested – Selected States

[These 18 States harvested 94% of the 2009 corn acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	October 24, 2009	October 17, 2010	October 24, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Colorado	42	53	68	45
Illinois	14	93	97	63
Indiana	20	90	96	51
Iowa	12	66	86	39
Kansas	47	89	93	72
Kentucky	65	98	99	87
Michigan	6	60	73	33
Minnesota	6	47	77	41
Missouri	43	84	90	71
Nebraska	15	50	74	38
North Carolina	93	100	100	96
North Dakota	2	22	55	29
Ohio	16	64	77	36
Pennsylvania	31	53	63	51
South Dakota	9	34	64	33
Tennessee	80	99	100	94
Texas	87	89	93	90
Wisconsin	8	50	66	31
18 States	20	68	83	49

Soybeans Harvested – Selected States

[These 18 States harvested 95% of the 2009 soybean acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	October 24, 2009	October 17, 2010	October 24, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas	37	71	84	63
Illinois	30	90	97	75
Indiana	48	90	96	73
Iowa	46	94	97	80
Kansas	47	61	77	61
Kentucky	33	75	90	55
Louisiana	72	92	96	91
Michigan	48	84	92	68
Minnesota	43	96	99	83
Mississippi	59	95	98	87
Missouri	27	58	79	52
Nebraska	62	89	96	78
North Carolina	16	15	27	14
North Dakota	25	90	98	76
Ohio	69	80	89	76
South Dakota	39	85	95	77
Tennessee	31	79	89	58
Wisconsin	23	86	95	63
18 States	42	83	91	72

Cotton Harvested – Selected States

[These 15 States harvested 99% of the 2009 cotton acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	October 24, 2009	October 17, 2010	October 24, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	16	58	68	45
Arizona	46	22	25	39
Arkansas	14	87	95	65
California	34	10	35	28
Georgia	14	34	49	31
Kansas	-	8	12	6
Louisiana	28	88	94	78
Mississippi	10	92	96	69
Missouri	12	82	96	61
North Carolina	22	39	59	38
Oklahoma	11	30	33	20
South Carolina	31	41	57	37
Tennessee	7	82	92	57
Texas	20	26	37	25
Virginia	38	44	74	43
15 States	19	41	53	36

- Represents zero.

Cotton Condition – Selected States: Week Ending October 24, 2010

[National crop conditions for selected States are weighted based on 2009 planted acreage]

State	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	10	25	39	25	1
Arizona	-	9	18	36	37
Arkansas	1	5	28	45	21
California	-	-	10	50	40
Georgia	11	20	35	29	5
Kansas	1	3	27	61	8
Louisiana	1	14	30	51	4
Mississippi	3	9	28	45	15
Missouri	11	20	27	35	7
North Carolina	3	14	34	43	6
Oklahoma	-	14	44	36	6
South Carolina	3	14	28	49	6
Tennessee	1	4	27	58	10
Texas	2	10	31	41	16
Virginia	25	32	27	16	-
15 States	4	12	31	39	14
Previous week	4	11	30	42	13
Previous year	11	14	31	36	8

- Represents zero.

Sorghum Mature – Selected States

[These 11 States planted 98% of the 2009 sorghum acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	October 24, 2009	October 17, 2010	October 24, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas	100	100	100	100
Colorado	89	98	99	91
Illinois	88	92	93	95
Kansas	83	94	97	86
Louisiana	100	100	100	100
Missouri	87	96	100	93
Nebraska	86	94	95	91
New Mexico	44	63	65	50
Oklahoma	58	91	96	73
South Dakota	93	99	100	96
Texas	74	94	97	86
11 States	79	94	97	86

Sorghum Harvested – Selected States

[These 11 States harvested 99% of the 2009 sorghum acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	October 24, 2009	October 17, 2010	October 24, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas	94	100	100	98
Colorado	29	26	45	35
Illinois	24	76	84	61
Kansas	13	55	72	39
Louisiana	99	100	100	100
Missouri	27	74	89	61
Nebraska	8	28	52	34
New Mexico	14	25	36	14
Oklahoma	26	49	55	38
South Dakota	26	85	90	55
Texas	70	74	79	76
11 States	37	62	73	54

Peanuts Harvested – Selected States

[These 8 States harvested 98% of the 2009 peanut acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	October 24, 2009	October 17, 2010	October 24, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	23	45	56	49
Florida	59	77	84	74
Georgia	42	51	66	58
North Carolina	64	31	62	74
Oklahoma	33	40	69	43
South Carolina	73	80	92	72
Texas	43	52	64	40
Virginia	72	20	49	66
8 States	44	52	67	57

Sugarbeets Harvested – Selected States

[These 4 States harvested 84% of the 2009 sugarbeet acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	October 24, 2009	October 17, 2010	October 24, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Idaho	64	38	65	55
Michigan	36	35	45	34
Minnesota	69	91	99	87
North Dakota	78	95	100	90
4 States	66	75	86	75

Sunflowers Harvested – Selected States

[These 4 States harvested 85% of the 2009 sunflower acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	October 24, 2009	October 17, 2010	October 24, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Colorado	44	65	69	57
Kansas	14	28	46	35
North Dakota	8	24	43	33
South Dakota	9	31	49	32
4 States	11	29	47	34

Rice Harvested – Selected States

[These 6 States harvested 100% of the 2009 rice acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	October 24, 2009	October 17, 2010	October 24, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas	78	98	99	92
California	93	30	55	87
Louisiana	97	100	100	99
Mississippi	75	100	100	94
Missouri	69	100	100	90
Texas	100	100	100	100
6 States	84	87	91	93

Winter Wheat Planted – Selected States

[These 18 States planted 89% of the 2010 winter wheat acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	October 24, 2009	October 17, 2010	October 24, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas	24	20	31	41
California	32	10	30	19
Colorado	98	98	99	99
Idaho	93	87	94	94
Illinois	30	75	95	74
Indiana	40	67	88	74
Kansas	79	86	92	87
Michigan	70	89	94	83
Missouri	19	54	74	50
Montana	94	90	96	96
Nebraska	97	98	99	98
North Carolina	16	10	17	19
Ohio	74	83	90	83
Oklahoma	76	78	88	84
Oregon	86	80	95	80
South Dakota	92	95	97	98
Texas	75	73	81	78
Washington	97	94	97	95
18 States	77	80	88	84

Winter Wheat Emerged – Selected States

[These 18 States planted 89% of the 2010 winter wheat acreage]

State	Week ending			2005-2009 Average
	October 24, 2009	October 17, 2010	October 24, 2010	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas	12	5	8	20
California	12	2	10	8
Colorado	82	73	89	89
Idaho	59	58	72	56
Illinois	10	27	55	43
Indiana	10	21	39	42
Kansas	63	50	63	69
Michigan	32	55	72	51
Missouri	13	18	35	30
Montana	72	61	76	73
Nebraska	85	81	91	91
North Carolina	3	1	3	6
Ohio	32	38	59	51
Oklahoma	65	51	68	66
Oregon	48	44	61	42
South Dakota	79	77	88	84
Texas	56	41	49	57
Washington	79	78	88	73
18 States	59	51	64	64

Winter Wheat Condition - Selected States: Week Ending October 24, 2010

[National crop conditions for selected States are weighted based on 2010 planted acreage]

State	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Arkansas	15	42	29	14	-
California	-	-	5	20	75
Colorado	3	18	48	28	3
Idaho	-	1	6	84	9
Illinois	1	6	43	47	3
Indiana	13	19	45	21	2
Kansas	2	13	43	39	3
Michigan	-	1	19	59	21
Missouri	4	12	43	40	1
Montana	-	-	22	69	9
Nebraska	-	7	53	36	4
North Carolina	5	10	40	40	5
Ohio	-	4	29	53	14
Oklahoma	2	16	51	28	3
Oregon	-	-	33	62	5
South Dakota	-	1	31	57	11
Texas	12	17	42	24	5
Washington	-	-	11	79	10
18 States	3	11	39	41	6
Previous week	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Previous year	1	4	33	53	9

- Represents zero.

(NA) Not available.

Pasture and Range Condition – Selected States: Week Ending October 24, 2010

[National pasture and range conditions for selected States are weighted based on pasture acreage and/or livestock inventories]

State	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Alabama	32	44	23	1	-
Arizona	19	14	24	30	13
Arkansas	28	27	33	10	2
California	10	20	15	55	-
Colorado	2	20	47	29	2
Connecticut	11	13	41	35	-
Delaware	7	22	35	35	1
Florida	3	15	51	30	1
Georgia	19	30	37	12	2
Idaho	1	11	38	50	-
Illinois	12	18	40	27	3
Indiana	57	25	14	4	-
Iowa	5	12	31	42	10
Kansas	5	17	35	41	2
Kentucky	61	26	10	3	-
Louisiana	26	36	28	9	1
Maine	2	5	19	74	-
Maryland	4	17	24	48	7
Massachusetts	-	3	71	23	3
Michigan	1	19	35	39	6
Minnesota	1	6	25	53	15
Mississippi	46	37	13	4	-
Missouri	4	15	38	38	5
Montana	2	6	37	48	7
Nebraska	2	4	26	60	8
Nevada	4	9	77	9	1
New Hampshire	3	16	48	33	-
New Jersey	-	5	35	55	5
New Mexico	6	14	28	45	7
New York	3	24	24	42	7
North Carolina	12	24	39	23	2
North Dakota	-	7	27	54	12
Ohio	9	22	41	22	6
Oklahoma	8	18	42	29	3
Oregon	3	15	55	25	2
Pennsylvania	8	20	43	27	2
Rhode Island	-	-	16	84	-
South Carolina	17	17	38	28	-
South Dakota	1	10	28	51	10
Tennessee	40	31	21	8	-
Texas	9	18	40	29	4
Utah	3	16	31	48	2
Vermont	5	54	41	-	-
Virginia	16	28	37	19	-
Washington	14	5	25	54	2
West Virginia	19	36	34	11	-
Wisconsin	3	9	29	45	14
Wyoming	2	10	38	43	7
48 States	11	17	33	35	4
Previous week	10	18	32	35	5
Previous year	8	13	30	41	8

- Represents zero.

Crop Progress and Condition Tables Expected Next Week

Corn: Harvested
Cotton: Harvested
Pasture and Range: Condition
Peanuts: Harvested
Rice: Harvested
Sorghum: Harvested
Soybeans: Harvested
Sugarbeets: Harvested
Sunflowers: Harvested
Winter Wheat: Planted, Emerged, Condition

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Crop progress and condition estimates are based on survey data collected each week from early April through the end of November. The non-probability crop progress and condition surveys include input from approximately 5,000 reporters whose occupations provide them opportunities to make visual observations and frequently bring them in contact with farmers in their counties. Based on standard definitions, these reporters subjectively estimate the progress of crops through various stages of development, as well as the progress of producer activities. They also provide subjective evaluations of crop conditions.

Most reporters complete their questionnaires on Friday or early Monday morning and submit them to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Field Offices in their States by mail, telephone, fax, e-mail, or through a secured internet website. A small number of reports are completed on Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Regardless of when questionnaires are completed, reporters are asked to report for the entire week ending on Sunday. For reports submitted prior to the Sunday reference date, a degree of uncertainty is introduced by projections for weekend changes in progress and condition. By the end of the 2009 season, over 80 percent of the data were being submitted through the internet website. As a result, the majority of all data are submitted on Monday morning, significantly reducing projection uncertainty.

Reporters are sent written reporting instructions at the beginning of each season and are contacted periodically to ensure proper reporting. Terms and definitions of crop stages and condition categories used as reporting guidelines are available on the NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/National_Crop_Progress.

Estimating Procedures: Reported data are reviewed for reasonableness and consistency by comparing with data reported the previous week and data reported in surrounding counties for the current week. Each State Field Office summarizes the reported data to district and State levels, weighting each county's reported data by NASS county acreage estimates. Summarized indications are compared with previous week estimates, and progress items are compared with earlier stages of development and historical averages to ensure reasonableness. Weather events and reporter comments are also taken into consideration. State estimates are submitted to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB) along with supporting comments, where they are compared with surrounding States and compiled into a National level summary by weighting each State by its acreage estimates.

Revision Policy: Progress and condition estimates in the *Crop Progress* report are released after 4:00 pm ET on the first business day of the week. These estimates are preliminary and subject to corrections or updates in the *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* that is released at 12:00 pm ET on the second business day of the week. These estimates are subject to revision the following week.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

Lance Honig, Chief, Crops Branch	(202) 720-2127
Jacqueline Moore, Head, Field Crops Section	(202) 720-2127
Suzanne Avilla – Peanuts, Rice.....	(202) 720-7688
Bryan Durham – Hay, Oats	(202) 690-3234
Steve Maliszewski – Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum.....	(202) 720-5944
Anthony Prillaman – Corn, Proso Millet, Flaxseed	(202) 720-9526
Nick Schauer – Wheat, Rye	(202) 720-8068
Julie Schmidt – Crop Weather, Barley, Sugar Crops	(202) 720-7621
Travis Thorson – Soybeans, Sunflower, Other Oilseeds.....	(202) 720-7369

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